



National Institute for
Occupational Safety and Health
Centers for Disease Control
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September 30, 2013

Bonnie Rogers, M.E., B.S.N., M.P.H., Dr.P.H.
Chair, Board of Scientific Counselors
National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health
University of North Carolina School of Public Health

Dear Dr. Rogers and Members:

Let me extend my appreciation to you and to each of the members of the Board of Scientific Counselors (BSC) of the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) for your service to NIOSH and its partners. In taking time from your busy schedules to meet periodically with my colleagues from throughout NIOSH, you help NIOSH immensely by offering your advice about how we can better serve the American worker.

I want to especially note how much NIOSH appreciates the BSC's September 2013 white paper entitled "*Structuring Labor-Management Participation in Research Partnerships: Request for Analysis and Recommendations.*" As I noted when I first asked the BSC to consider how NIOSH could best protect the interests of workers when it conducted field research in an era of dwindling bargaining unit representation, the issues are quite complex

I am pleased that the BSC took up my request and even more pleased to read the BSC's thoughtful Report and Recommendations. I have asked Dr. Margaret Kitt, NIOSH Deputy Director for Program, to chair a group of NIOSH Division Directors whose Divisional researchers engage in field research to review the BSC's Report and to determine the applicability and feasibility of implementing the BSC's recommendations.

In closing, let me also thank the BSC for their letter of September 24, 2013 expressing the BSC's support for the continued operation of the NIOSH-funded Education and Research Centers and the NIOSH-funded Centers of Agricultural Disease and Injury Research, Education and Prevention.

Sincerely,



John Howard
Director